

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 -2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1,~~

An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk,
comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording
layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed
through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light directing areas for directing light to the
light receiving device to detect a push-pull signal and a second light directing area for
directing light to the light receiving device to detect a focus error signal, and

a configuration is provided such that the center of the optical axis of the reflected
light in said beam splitting device is made to lie within said second light directing area for
directing the light to the light receiving device to detect the focus error signal, and

wherein:

lines defining said three light [[receiving]] directing areas comprise three straight
lines, and each of at least two angles formed between respective ones of these lines is more
than 90 degrees.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1,~~

An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk,
comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light directing areas for directing light to the light receiving device to detect a push-pull signal and a second light directing area for directing light to the light receiving device to detect a focus error signal, and

a configuration is provided such that the center of the optical axis of the reflected light in said beam splitting device is made to lie within said second light directing area for directing the light to the light receiving device to detect the focus error signal, and

wherein:

when the beam from said objective lens is made to focus in the recording layer nearer to said objective lens from among said two recording layers of the optical disk, the reflected light from the recording layer farther from said objective lens from among said two recording layers is applied to said second light directing area for directing the light to the light receiving device to detect [[detecting]] the focus error signal.

5 - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light ~~[[receiving]]~~ directing areas for ~~[[detecting]]~~ directing light to the light receiving device to detect a push-pull signal and a second light ~~[[receiving]]~~ directing area for ~~[[detecting]]~~ directing light to the light receiving device to detect a focus error signal, and

the amount of the push-pull signal detected in said two first light ~~[[receiving]]~~ directing areas for ~~[[detecting]]~~ directing light to the light receiving device to detect the push-pull signal is more than 50 % of the total amount of the push-pull signal obtained from said optical disk.

11. (Currently amended) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

lines defining said three light ~~[[receiving]]~~ directing areas comprise three straight lines and a curved line.

12. (Currently amended) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

lines defining said three light ~~[[receiving]]~~ directing areas comprise three straight lines, and each of at least two angles formed between respective ones of these lines is more than 90 degrees.

13. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein: said beam splitting device comprises a hologram device.

14. (Original) An optical disk drive apparatus comprising the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim 10.